Sick food processing industries

1143. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the State-wise details of the food processing industries that are not functioning profitably in the country.

(b) what are the reassons for their sickness; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to revive the sick food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) Since the food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information with regard to the number of all food pocessing industries not functioning profitably in the country, Statewise, is not maintained centrally. Gene rally; in the last few years, food processing industries have been doing well However, some small scale industries are reported to be facing marketing problems. The reason for individual units *not doing well* can be *attributed* to inadequacy of technology to produce quality goods, inadequacy of management, marketing efforts, lack of finance etc. There are also certain general issues like inadequate availability of quality raw-materials at reasonable prices over a long period of time, higher taxes and duties on packaging materials and state level taxes etc. are voiced by the industry from time to time. With a view to give a boost to this industry, government have accorded high priority for its development and have delicensed all food processing units except for breweing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale industries. Fiscal concessions have been provided to large number of processed food items and capital goods. Government has also simplified procedure for approval and provided concurrence to exports. In addition to the above. Ministry of Food processing Industry has formulated several Plan schemes for providing assistance for developing food processing industries during the 8th Plan which *inter-alia* include assistance to State Government organisations /co-operative /voluntary agencies/joint sectors etc. for setting up or enlarging food processing facilities, developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing support, pork, poultry and other meat processing facilities, tuna and other fish processing facilities, deep sea fishing and processing, setting up cold chain, research and development in food processing and packaging and training of manpower in certain sectors.

Setting up Prawn Processing Units

1144. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals received annually by Government for setting up of prawn processing units during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of proposals pending with the Union Government; and

(c) what steps are being taken for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Prior approval from the Government for setting up of prawn processing units is not necessary. However, as per the existing procedure, processing units are required to be registered with Marine products, Export Development Authority (MPEDA). MPEDA accords registration after verifying the facilities available in the units. State-wise break-up of registrations accorded to processing units during the last 3 years, is given in the enclosed Statemnt (*See below*).

(b) No proposal for registration is pending with MPEDA.

(c) Does not arise.